

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hajime ICHIMURA et al.

Title: METHOD FOR EVALUATING GRAPHITE STRUCTURE OF GRAY CAST IRON, EVALUATION PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM, AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: DEC 08 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of document A1 is described in the present specification. An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, an English language abstract is provided herewith. Consequently, the foreign language document has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and, therefore, the document should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Documents A2-A10 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. Copies of the documents are not being provided since copies should have been provided directly by WIPO under an exchange program between the PTO, the EPO and the JPO. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

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DT05 Rec'd PTO 0:8 DEC 2004

Atty. Dkt. No. 040679-1458

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to
Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date DEC 08 2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for filing through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DT05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 DEC 2004

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	DEC 08 2004
Date Submitted: DEC 08 2004				First Named Inventor	Hajime ICHIMURA
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	040679-1458

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	2002162348	A	KIMURA CHUZOSHO	06-07-2002		Abs.
	A2	JP	5-273200	A	RIKEN CORP.	10-22-1993		
	A3	JP	54-150194	A	YAHAGI SEITETSU KABUSHIKI KAISHA	11-26-1979		
	A4	JP	2000-9668	A	KABUSHIKI KAISHA NIPPON SAPURANSU PUROBU ENGINEERING	01-14-2000		
	A5	JP	11-304736	A	KABUSHIKI KAISHA NIPPON SAPURANSU PUROBU ENGINEERING	11-05-1999		
	A6	JP	2002-317237	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP.	10-31-2002		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A7	KENJI ISHIMIMA et al., "Gazo Joho Shori System ni yoru Kinzoku Sozai no Teiryoka ni Kansuru Kenkyu (second report)" Tochigi-ken Kogyo Shiken Kenkyu Kikan Kenkyu Shuroku, October 1989, Vol. 1988, pages 230-237.	
	A8	KENJI ISHIMIMA et al., "Gazo Joho Shori System ni yoru Kinzoku Sozai no Teiryoka ni Kansuru Kenkyu (first report)", Tochigi-ken Kogyo Shiken Kenkyu Kikan Kenkyu Shuroku, January 1989, Vol. 1987, pages 171-178.	
	A9	HARUMI UENO, et al., "Gazo Joho Shori System ni yoru Soshiki no Teiryoka ni Kansuru Kenkyu Kinzoku, Kinzokukei Fukugo Zairyo Soshiki no Teiryoka ni Kansuru Kenkyu", Tochigi-ken Kogyo Gijutu Center Kenkyu Hokoku, August 1991, Vol. 1990, pages 51-59.	
	A10	H.Y. YUAN et al., "Computer image evaluation of graphite forms in cast iron", Int. J. Cast Metals Res., 1999, Vol. 11, pages 447-451.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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